

# ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE

## Health of the Urban District

OF

## SADDLEWORTH

FOR THE YEAR

# 1938

BY

## ERNEST A. RAMSDEN,

Diplomate in Public Health.

Medical Officer of Health.



# URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

OF

## SADDLEWORTH,

1938.

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*Chairman :*

Mr. J. J. BURRIDGE, J.P.

*Vice-Chairman :*

Mr. K. G. WILBY.

*Delph Ward :*

Mr. JOEL BUCKLEY, J.P.  
Mr. JOHN E. GARTSIDE, J.P.  
Mr. EDWIN HUDSON, J.P.  
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Mr. ALBERT THOMAS, J.P.  
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Mr. HERVEY RHODES

*Uppermill Ward :*

Mr. J. J. BURRIDGE, J.P.  
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*Springhead Higher :*

Mr. J. R. MARSHALL  
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*Springhead Lower :*

Mr. H. BATESON  
Mr. F. NICHOLSON  
Mr. A. WILD, J.P.  
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*Clerk and Accountant :*

Mr. A. B. GLASSPOOL.

*Sanitary Inspector :*

Mr. LEONARD TAYLOR, M.R.SAN.INST., F.R.H.S.

*Medical Officer of Health :*

Dr. ERNEST A. RAMSDEN, M.R.C.S., D.P.H.

*Housing Inspector :* Mr. B. CASTLE, M.INST., M.Cy.E.



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BRIARFIELD,

DOBCROSS,

August, 1939.

*To the Chairman and Members of the  
Saddleworth Urban District Council.*

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit to you my Report on the Health of the District for the year, 1938.

### **Section A.**

#### STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

##### POPULATION.

The population residing in the Urban District of Saddleworth is, by the addition of Springhead, now 17,240.

The District is situated on the out-skirts of the Mid Pennines, and has an area of 18,485 acres, of which 1,555 form the old Springhead. Included in its area there is a large extent of unenclosed moorland.

The District is a very hilly one; the highest hill is 1774 feet, at Black Chew Head, whilst the minimum elevation above sea level is near Greenfield, being about 500 feet. The hills, covered as they are by extensive moors, form the gathering grounds for much water, which, running down the various valleys, forms the River Tame. This river, arising near Denshaw, runs in an S curve from north to south to Greenfield, receiving on its way down, on its left, brooks from the Castleshaw, Diggle, Pickhill, and Greenfield Valleys in order. The Greenfield Brook is joined, as it descends from Bill's o' Jacks, by a large stream, the Chew Brook, on its left. Springhead is chiefly built on the land sloping downwards from High Moor to the Medlock Valley.

The District lies chiefly on the Millstone Grit. Near Grains Bar, there is a seam of poor coal, and shales are common in the hills bordering the Castleshaw and Denshaw Valleys.

Scattered at intervals of about a mile in the main valley of the Tame are the various villages. Each village is a centre of manufacture, whilst on the hillsides farming is carried on. The chief manufactures are those of woollen goods, though there is one large electrical meter works and also a loom works, in addition to several printing and bleaching works, and one paper mill.

### RATES.

During 1938 the rates were 14/3 in the £. The Rateable Value of the District was £96,642, and a penny rate realises £363.

### NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES.

The number of inhabited houses is 5882, of which 4437 are to house the working classes.

## EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

### BIRTHS.

|              |                |     | Male | Female | Total |
|--------------|----------------|-----|------|--------|-------|
| Live Births  | { Legitimate   | ... | 110  | 90     | 200   |
|              | { Illegitimate | ... | 4    | 1      | 5     |
| Total        |                |     | 114  | 91     | 205   |
| Still Births | ...            | ... | 5    | 5      | 10    |

Birth-rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 11·88

Still Births, rate per 1,000 total births (live and still) ... 46·5

### DEATHS.

| Male | Female | Total |
|------|--------|-------|
| 98   | 111    | 209   |

Death-rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population 12·12

Deaths from Puerperal Sepsis, Nil. Deaths from other Puerperal causes, 0. Giving a Death-rate from these causes per 1,000 live and still-births of 0.

Deaths of Infants (all legitimate) under 1 year of age were 11.

### Death-rate of—

|  |     |     |       |
|--|-----|-----|-------|
| All Infants per 1,000 live-births              | ... | ... | 53·65 |
| Legitimate Infants per 1,000 live-births       | ..  | ... | 53·65 |
| Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 live-births.... | ... | ... | Nil   |
| Deaths from Cancer (all ages)                  | ... | ... | 28    |
| Deaths from Measles (all ages)                 | ... | ... | Nil   |
| Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)          | ... | ... | Nil   |
| Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years)          | ... | ... | 2     |

## PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF MORTALITY.

|   |     |     |     |    |
|---|-----|-----|-----|----|
| Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fever                 | ... | ... | ... | 0  |
| Measles                                       | ... | ... | ... | 0  |
| Scarlet Fever                                 | ... | ... | ... | 0  |
| Whooping Cough                                | ... | ... | ... | 0  |
| Diphtheria                                    | ... | ... | ... | 0  |
| Influenza                                     | ... | ... | ... | 3  |
| Encephalitis Lethargica                       | ... | ... | ... | 0  |
| Cerebro-Spinal Fever                          | ... | ... | ... | 1  |
| Tuberculosis of Respiratory System (Phthisis) | ... | ... | ... | 3  |
| Other Tubercular Diseases                     | ... | ... | ... | 5  |
| Syphilis                                      | ... | ... | ... | 0  |
| General Paralysis of the Insane and Tabes     | ... | ... | ... | 0  |
| Cancer, Malignant Disease                     | ... | ... | ... | 28 |
| Diabetes                                      | ... | ... | ... | 3  |
| Cerebral Hæmorrhage, etc                      | ... | ... | ... | 14 |
| Heart Disease                                 | ... | ... | ... | 52 |
| Aneurism                                      | ... | ... | ... | 0  |
| Other Circulatory Diseases                    | ... | ... | ... | 16 |
| Bronchitis                                    | ... | ... | ... | 14 |
| Pneumonia (all forms)                         | ... | ... | ... | 7  |
| Other Respiratory Diseases                    | ... | ... | ... | 2  |
| Peptic Ulcer                                  | ... | ... | ... | 0  |
| Diarrhœa, etc. (under 2 years)                | ... | ... | ... | 2  |
| Appendicitis                                  | ... | ... | ... | 1  |
| Cirrhosis of Liver                            | ... | ... | ... | 0  |
| Other Liver Diseases                          | ... | ... | ... | 2  |
| Other Digestive Diseases                      | ... | ... | ... | 6  |
| Nephritis (Acute and Chronic)                 | ... | ... | ... | 8  |
| Puerperal Sepsis                              | ... | ... | ... | 0  |
| Other Puerperal Diseases                      | ... | ... | ... | 0  |
| Congenital Debility, Premature Birth          | ... | ... | ... | 4  |
| Senility                                      | ... | ... | ... | 6  |
| Suicide                                       | ... | ... | ... | 6  |
| Other Violence                                | ... | ... | ... | 9  |
| Other Defined Diseases                        | ... | ... | ... | 17 |
| Ill-defined Diseases                          | ... | ... | ... | 0  |

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Total from all causes... 209



From the Table it will be seen that out of the 209 deaths occurring in the year, 82 were from Heart and Circulatory Diseases. In the main these deaths may be said to have been chiefly due to the wear and tear of life, and except for better social and financial conditions little could be done to prevent their incidence. But in a "Utopia" their incidence would probably be greatly reduced.

23 deaths were from Respiratory Diseases, 3 from Consumption and 8 from other Tubercular Diseases. Cancer and other Malignant Diseases were responsible for 28 deaths. So that out of a thousand theoretical deaths occurring in the district, about 390 would be due to Circulatory Disease, about 100 to Respiratory Diseases, about 133 to Malignant Diseases and about 37 due to Tuberculosis.

The following Table gives the age periods at which the deaths occurred :—

| Decennial Period.             |     |    |
|-------------------------------|-----|----|
| From birth to 10 years of age | ... | 18 |
| From 10 to 20 years of age    | ... | 9  |
| From 20 to 30 years of age    | ... | 2  |
| From 30 to 40 years of age    | ... | 6  |
| From 40 to 50 years of age    | ... | 9  |
| From 50 to 60 years of age    | ... | 26 |
| From 60 to 70 years of age    | ... | 68 |
| From 70 to 80 years of age    | ... | 54 |
| From 80 to 90 years of age    | ... | 18 |

#### SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT OF DISTRICT.

Many of the houses in the district are still not numbered for Postal and other services. In many of the Council Housing Estates numbers are provided on the front doors only, although the real access is at the rear. It would be an improvement if front and rear numbering were insisted on, and especially at the Carr Cote Council Houses, Delph.



## Section B.

### GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE DISTRICT.

#### HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION.

Saddleworth draws largely on the services of the General Infirmarys at Manchester, Oldham, Ashton, and to a lesser degree on the one at Huddersfield, for its more serious cases. Also there is an increasing tendency for mothers to go to Hospitals or Nursing Homes for their confinements.

As regards Infectious Diseases, most of the cases are sent out of the district to neighbouring Fever Hospitals at the expense of the Local Authority, except that with regard to Smallpox, we have a special Hospital at Runninghill which luckily is very rarely used. For patients, who, on account of their chronic illness and circumstances, are not fitting patients for General Hospitals, there is the Dean Head Institution.

#### MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

A Child Welfare Centre has sessions every Wednesday, from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. or thereabouts. This is held at the Mechanics' Institute, Uppermill. The School Nurses and Medical Officer attend each session.

There is also a Child Welfare Centre at Springhead, held every Thursday at the Springhead Congregational School, at 2 p.m.

At the Uppermill Clinic, total number of attendances for 1938, were :—

|                       |     |      |
|-----------------------|-----|------|
| Children under 1 year | ... | 1664 |
| „ 1 to 5 years        | ... | 2081 |

Total number who attended for first time :—

|              |        |             |       |
|--------------|--------|-------------|-------|
| Under 1 year | ...103 | Over 1 year | ... 5 |
|--------------|--------|-------------|-------|

93 children under 1 year and 188 children over 1 year were in attendance at the end of the year.

At the Springhead Centre, attendances during 1938, were :—

|        |          |         |          |
|--------|----------|---------|----------|
| Babies | ... 3400 | Mothers | ... 3039 |
|--------|----------|---------|----------|

The average attendances of Babies weekly was 70, and that of Mothers 63.

#### ANTE-NATAL CLINICS.

These services are also provided by the County Council. One is held every fourth Thursday of the month at the Mechanics' Hall, Uppermill, at 2 p.m., and the other one every second Monday in the month, at the Springhead Congregational School.

At the Uppermill Clinic, Ante-Natal attendances were 154; Post-Natal 4. Total number of Mothers who attended 60. At the Springhead Centre 60 Pre-Natal cases attended, paying 200 visits to the Clinics.

#### HOME NURSING.

Delph and Dobcross continue to employ a District Nurse who attends ill people at their homes and does Midwifery. In the same way Uppermill and Diggle employ another Nurse. Greenfield has a District Nurse of its own. All these Nurses attend Midwifery Cases. Even then these Nurses do not "tap" the whole district. Denshaw, for example, has no District Nurse. Your Council allows an annual grant of £30 to the corresponding Associations for the upkeep of these Nurses, but generally speaking it is the support given by the working classes to the Associations which enables the services to be kept up. Springhead also has a District Nurse who is similarly supported.

There are also two Nurses working for the County Council, who attend the Pre-Natal and Child Welfare Centres, at Uppermill and Springhead, and visit the newly-born children after the ordinary nurses and doctors have ceased to supervise these cases.

Springhead has a Midwife who attends cases also in Denshaw. She is wholly employed in Midwifery, and undertakes work in Lees and surrounding districts, and is employed by the Lancashire County Council, who pay the expenses of her car.

#### AMBULANCE SERVICES.

|  | Location of Ambulance  | Ownership                          |
|--|--|------------------------------------|
| For General Sick and Accident Cases ...  | Oldham Fire Station  | Oldham Corporation                 |
|  | Mossley Fire Station   | Mossley Council                    |
| For General Infectious Disease Cases ... | Council Offices,<br>Uppermill<br>Also Ashton, Oldham<br>Hyde and Meltham | Saddleworth Urban District Council |
| For Smallpox ... ..                      | Council Offices,<br>Uppermill  | Saddleworth Urban District Council |

## HEALTH WEEK.

It gives me great pleasure to record here the inauguration of Saddleworth's first Health Week, October 8th-15th, 1938, when a great deal of local interest was aroused as is evinced by an attendance of over 6,000 people during the period. The week marked efforts, by precept and example, for the furtherance of the health and well-being of our people; I heartily commend the efforts of all persons who assisted.

Stands demonstrating various aspects of the health services were provided and lectures by eminently qualified persons were a feature, whilst films depicting, amongst others, the transference of families from slums to modern flats and houses on healthy estates, and modern methods of collection and distribution of milk were shown.

The children—to whom we must look for the future well-being of our race—were not forgotten; special lectures were given to them on the care of the teeth and eyes, and on various aspects of personal hygiene. Again, I heartily commend the enterprise shown.

I trust that this Health Week will prove to be the forerunner of future concerted effort on behalf of public health, and that the apathy shown by some parents in patronizing the clinics and by people generally in taking advantage of the public health services will be greatly reduced.

## LABORATORY FACILITIES.

There are provided by the County Council Laboratories at Wakefield, where pathological material is examined, free of charge, for suspected Diphtheria, Tubercle, and Typhoid Fever. Also the water and milk supplies are examined from time to time.

## ADOPTIVE ACTS IN FORCE.

Infectious Diseases (Prevention) Act, 1890.

Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act, 1890, Parts II. and III.

Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act, 1907, except Sections 67, II., III. and IV.

Private Street Works Act, 1892.

Infectious Diseases (Notification) Act, 1898.

**Section C.****SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES  
OF THE AREA.****WATER SUPPLY.**

Saddleworth is so extremely well supplied with water that the neighbouring towns have constructed large reservoirs in the various valleys. The Oldham Corporation has reservoirs at Castleshaw, Dowry, New Year's Bridge, Crook Gate, and Readycon Dene. The Ashton, Stalybridge and Dukinfield (District) Joint Committee have constructed two reservoirs in the Greenfield Valley, and a third one in the Chew Valley; this, however, is only intended for Compensation Water. In the Diggle valley are also reservoirs which feed the Huddersfield Canal.

It is chiefly from the reservoirs in the Greenfield Valley that Saddleworth is supplied with water, although the Oldham Corporation supplies a few houses at Denshaw.

The old Springhead obtains its water from Oldham Corporation and Ashton, Stalybridge and Dukinfield Waterworks.

The supply of water is a continuous one and should be extended, if possible, to all houses that are supplied by wells in which the water becomes either muddy in rainy weather or is deficient in quantity after a slight drought.

In some of the more highly situated parts of the District the water pressure has not been sufficient formerly to supply houses, but this has now been remedied by a Booster Installation erected at Brownhill Bridge.

The water from these moor reservoirs is naturally plumbo-solvent, so special treatment has been adopted (Alumino-ferric and Chalk with subsequent filtration through Pressure Filters).

The number of houses supplied with water from the mains is 4,579, whilst in addition 1,303 houses, more or less, are supplied by springs or wells; of these, 153 are in Greenfield, 87 in Uppermill, 342 in Delph, 48 in Grasscroft, 172 in Diggle, 161 in Dobcross, 176 in Denshaw and 164 in Springhead.

Two analytical and bacteriological examinations of the public water have been made during the year, and each has proved satisfactory.



It has not been necessary to restrict or close any wells or springs. During the year 32 samples of water from wells and springs were taken and examined analytically. In 13 cases the water was to be regarded with suspicion. Action was taken by the Council and defects were abated and the water was afterwards found to be good and fit for drinking.

#### SEWERAGE, SEWAGE AND TRADE-WASTE DISPOSAL.

The Sewerage of the Saddleworth District consists of a main line of sewers roughly following the direction of the river Tame from Delph to the new Sewage Disposal Works at Greenfield, which picks up as branch sewers the main sewers of the districts of Denshaw, Delph, New Delph, Dobcross, Diggle, Uppermill, and Greenfield, all of which gravitate to the new Sewage Disposal Works, Greenfield. The remaining areas of Grasscroft and Shaw Hall Bank cannot gravitate to the new works owing to difficulties in level and the canal crossing, which is overcome by the pumping station at Royal George at the south west of the district.

One can only give a general idea of the sewers. Briefly the main sewer from Delph to the Sewage Works varies in diameter from 12 inch to 27 inch, increases in the pipe diameters taking place at points where the various district mains are picked up. The 9 inch branch main from Denshaw and the various branches from Delph enter the 12 inch main sewer at Rasping Mill, Delph. The various mains from New Delph enter the 15 inch main sewer near Delph Station. The 6 inch branch main from Dobcross enters the 18 inch main near the Woolpack Inn, Dobcross. The 12 inch branch main from Diggle enters the 18 inch main near Brownhill Bridge Saw Mill. The various branches from Uppermill enter the 21 inch main sewer at Wade Lock, Uppermill, and the 18 inch branch main with its connections from Greenfield enters the 27 inch main sewer at the old Sewage Disposal Works on the left bank of the river Tame. The 27 inch main sewer crosses the river Tame near to the junction with Chew Valley Brook.

The Shaw Hall Bank sewer is 7 inches in diameter and increases to 12 inches after picking up the 9 inch branch mains of Shaw Hall and Grasscroft areas, and continues to the Royal George Pumping Station a 12 inch sewer.

At the Royal George Pumping Station there are three pumps, two of which have 3,509 gallons per minute capacity driven by 18 h.p. electric motors, and one of 1,509 gallons per minute capacity driven by a 5 h.p. electric motor, all of which are automatic float controlled. All the sewage flows to one sump or well in which the floats are fixed at different levels according to the size of pump and period of entering.

In normal day periods the small pump is more than adequate for the flow and only works at intervals, but in the event of an increase in the flow, caused by rain, storms, etc., which this pump cannot control, the water level in the well rises and engages the float of one of the larger pumps which is immediately brought into commission and the small pump is cut out by an automatic control. If the storm or rate of flow continues to rise with the the larger pump working the float of the second large pump is engaged and this pump also brought into commission, which continues to run with the other large pump as long as this rate of flow continues. As and when the flow is reduced the reverse order takes place with the lowering of the water level in the well until the normal flow persists when the small pump again resumes control. The sewage from the Pumping Station is pumped to the works at Shaw Hall Bank through 8 inch cast iron pipes for treatment along with the sewage from the other districts.

I owe this description of the sewerage of Saddleworth to the kindness of Mr. A. Barker, the manager of the works.

#### SEWERAGE EXTENSIONS.

There have been some extensions of the sewerage at Scouthead, Grotton, Lovers Lane, Heathfields, (444 yards altogether).

Among areas still requiring sewerage one may mention Diglee, Shaw Lee, Shaws, Higher Kinders, Tunstead, Royal George, and Burnedge.

#### RIVERS AND STREAMS.

No action has been taken to prevent the pollution of rivers and streams.

#### CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

In all the newer houses, water-carriage is adopted where possible, otherwise the Sanitary Pail is used.

The mills are, for the most part, adequately provided with accommodation.

The water closets numbered 4470, and the waste water closets 623. On the pail system there are 657. The number of closets constructed in 1938 for new houses was 81 water closets.

#### SCAVENGING.

30 Ashpits were abolished during the year, and a corresponding number of dust-bins have been substituted. Thus these houses are now served weekly, whereas previously their refuse was removed monthly.

The scavenging is done by 12 men with three covered waggons for the removal of household refuse, and one special waggon for night-soil.

The night-soil is now emptied into the sewers at Brown Hill Bridge.

The household refuse is chiefly disposed of by "Controlled Tipping." Other Tipping is done at Hull Mill, Delph.

Approximately 4,094 dust-bins and 657 sanitary pails are cleansed weekly. The larger business premises, such as those of grocers, butchers, fruiterers, etc., are visited three or four times a week. Altogether some 78 loads of refuse are removed weekly.

#### SWIMMING BATH.

There is an Open-air Swimming Bath at Grotton, which is about 75 yards in length and 20 yards wide, constructed with concrete floor, and provided with suitable dressing and lavatory accommodation. The water, obtained from an adjoining stream, is filtered, heated and chlorinated. From time to time the water is examined, and such examinations have proved satisfactory.

#### FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

Frequent visits were paid to the 88 Factories and Workshops within the area to note matters concerning cleanliness, overcrowding, temperature, ventilation, drainage of floors and sanitary conveniences.

| Defects Found                        | Number of Defects Found | Number of Defects Remedied |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| Want of Cleanliness ... ..           | 20                      | 20                         |
| Overcrowding ... ..                  | 0                       | 0                          |
| Unreasonable Temperature ... ..      | 0                       | 0                          |
| Inadequate Ventilation ... ..        | 0                       | 0                          |
| Ineffective Drainage of Floors... .. | 16                      | 16                         |
| Sanitary Conveniences—               |                         |                            |
| Insufficient ... ..                  | 0                       | 0                          |
| Unsuitable or Defective ... ..       | 0                       | 0                          |
| Not separate for the sexes ... ..    | 0                       | 0                          |
|                                      | <hr/> 36                | <hr/> 36                   |



## SMOKE ABATEMENT.

|  |     |     |     |     |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Number of smoke observations, each of 30 minutes duration, taken during 1938 | ... | ... | ... | 45  |
| Number of above showing excessive emission of black smoke                    | ... | ... | ... | 3   |
| Number of Cautions issued  | ... | ... | ... | 3   |
| Number of Statutory Notices issued   | ... | ... | ... | 3   |
| Number of Prosecutions   | ... | ... | ... | Nil |
| Miscellaneous Nuisances under the Factory Act, dealt with                    | ... | ... | ... | 12  |

## ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

1. (a) No Council House was infested.  
(b) Nor were any other Houses.
2. Before tenants who are rehoused under the provisions of the Housing Act, 1936, occupy Council Houses, their furniture and other belongings are put in a special van and Cimex used, the work being done by Contract.
3. No special measures are taken to educate the tenants of Council Houses against re-infestation.

## SCHOOLS.

The sanitary conditions and water supplies of the Schools are quite good.

## REFUSE DESTRUCTION.

No Refuse Destructor is provided in the District.

## MORTUARY.

The Mortuary in Uppermill fulfils a want long felt in the District. There is also another Mortuary at the Springhead Council Offices.

The following Table relates to the Monthly Rainfall at the various stations in Saddleworth and neighbourhood under the jurisdiction of the Ashton, Stalybridge and Dukinfield Waterworks (Joint Committee).

MONTHLY RAINFALL AT THE SADDLEWORTH STATIONS, 1938.

| Diameter of Gauge<br>Height of Gauge above ground level<br>Altitude of Gauge above ordnance<br>datum in feet | 5 in.<br>1 ft. 0in.<br>784 | 5 in.<br>1 ft. 0in.<br>1018 | 5 in.<br>1 ft. 0in.<br>1581 | 5 in.<br>1 ft. 0in.<br>1518 | 5 in.<br>1 ft. 0in.<br>1578 | 5 in.<br>1 ft. 0in.<br>1648 |
|--|----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Names of places at which the<br>Gauges are stationed.  | Greenfield                 |                             |                             |                             | Chew                        |                             |
|  | Yeoman Lev<br>Reservoir    | Birchlen<br>Clough          | Ashway<br>Moss              | Upper Wood                  | Chew Mount                  | Chew<br>Reservoir           |
| January  | Ins.<br>6.05               | Ins.<br>6.20                | Ins.<br>6.44                | Ins.<br>5.92                | Ins.<br>5.49                | Ins.<br>6.76                |
| February   | 2.34                       | 2.48                        | 2.51                        | 2.45                        | 2.35                        | 2.92                        |
| March  | 1.89                       | 1.84                        | 2.00                        | 2.05                        | 2.03                        | 2.79                        |
| April  | .82                        | .75                         | .81                         | .71                         | .67                         | .90                         |
| May  | 4.65                       | 4.86                        | 4.98                        | 5.07                        | 4.54                        | 4.68                        |
| June   | 5.15                       | 5.16                        | 5.49                        | 5.49                        | 6.20                        | 6.67                        |
| July   | 5.16                       | 5.30                        | 5.71                        | 5.53                        | 6.11                        | 6.94                        |
| August   | 3.73                       | 3.69                        | 4.24                        | 4.39                        | 3.83                        | 4.50                        |
| September  | 2.38                       | 2.58                        | 2.79                        | 2.84                        | 2.62                        | 2.93                        |
| October  | 10.63                      | 10.36                       | 10.46                       | 10.44                       | 10.60                       | 11.45                       |
| November   | 5.79                       | 5.82                        | 5.81                        | 5.48                        | 5.55                        | 6.36                        |
| December   | 5.27                       | 5.22                        | 5.05                        | 4.96                        | 4.81                        | 5.66                        |
| Totals   | 53.86                      | 54.26                       | 56.29                       | 55.33                       | 54.80                       | 62.56                       |
| Number of rainy days   | 235                        | —                           | —                           | —                           | —                           | 255                         |
| Maximum fall in one day  | 1.51                       | —                           | —                           | —                           | —                           | 1.80                        |
| Yearly average   | 50.51                      | 52.99                       | 39.21                       | 47.62                       | 52.73                       | 56.51                       |

## Section D.

## HOUSING CONDITIONS.

## I.—INSPECTION OF DWELLING-HOUSES DURING THE YEAR.

|   |     |   |     |
|---|-----|---|-----|
| 1 | (a) | Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ... ..  | 293 |
|   | (b) | Number of inspections made for the purpose ...  | 554 |
| 2 | (a) | Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head 1 above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 ... .. | 259 |
|   | (b) | Number of inspections made for the purpose ...  | 520 |
| 3 | (a) | Number of dwelling-houses needing further action ... ..   | 152 |
|   | (b) | Number of dwelling-houses considered to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be totally unfit for human habitation ...             | 92  |
|   | (c) | Number (excluding those sub-head 3 (a) above) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ... ..                              | 60  |

## II.—REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.

|  |    |
|--|----|
| Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers ... .. | 10 |
|--|----|

## III.—ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR.

## A—PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTIONS 9, 10, and 16, HOUSING ACT, 1936.

|   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| 1 | Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ...  | 0 |
| 2 | Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices ... .. | 0 |
|   | (a) By owners ... ..   | 0 |
|   | (b) By Local Authority in default of owners ...  | 0 |

## B—PROCEEDINGS UNDER PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS.

|   |   |    |
|---|---|----|
| 1 | Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... .. | 34 |
| 2 | Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices ...              | 15 |
|   | (a) By owners ... ..  | 15 |
|   | (b) By Local Authority in default of owners ...   | 0  |

C—PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTIONS 11 and 13,  
OF THE HOUSING ACT, 1936.

|   |   |    |
|---|---|----|
| 1 | Number of representations, etc., made in respect of dwelling-houses unfit for human habitation... | 10 |
| 2 | Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... ..                  | 7  |
| 3 | Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... ..                     | 7  |

D—PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTION 12 OF THE  
HOUSING ACT, 1936.

|   |   |    |
|---|---|----|
| 1 | Number of separate tenements or under-ground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... ..  | 18 |
| 2 | Number of separate tenements or under-ground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenements or under-ground rooms having been rendered fit ... | 0  |

IV.—UNHEALTHY AREAS.

During the year the Council declared the under-mentioned 15 areas to be Clearance Areas :

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. Moorgate, Uppermill                       | 9. Lower Cross, Uppermill                         |
| 2. Saddleworth Fold,<br>Uppermill            | 10. Smithy Lane and off<br>High Street, Uppermill |
| 3. St. Mary's Gate,<br>Uppermill             | 11. Lane Head, Greenfield                         |
| 4. Hill End, Delph                           | 12. Bunkers, Greenfield                           |
| 5. Hill End, Delph                           | 13. Waterside, Greenfield                         |
| 6. Tame View, Delph                          | 14. Shepherds Green,<br>Greenfield                |
| 7. Heathfields, Uppermill                    | 15. Shaw Hall, Greenfield                         |
| 8. Bridge Street and<br>Lees Yard, Uppermill |   |

Comprising a total of 58 houses with a population of 165.

The Minister of Health has confirmed 13 of the above Areas, comprising a total of 51 houses with a population of 148 persons. The six Areas referred to in my last report as being "sub-judice" were also confirmed by the Minister in 1938. These areas were :

- |                          |                           |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Marsh Bottom, Denshaw | 4. Platt Hill, Dobcross   |
| 2. Spurn Lane, Diggle    | 5. Den Lane, Uppermill    |
| 3. High Stile, Dobcross  | 6. Platts Yard, Uppermill |

Comprising 21 houses with a population of 71.

## V.—NUMBER OF NEW HOUSES ERECTED DURING 1938.

|                            |     |     |     |       |
|----------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| (a) By the Local Authority | ... | ... | ... | 202   |
| (b) By Private Enterprise  | ... | ... | ... | 62    |
|                            |     |     |     | <hr/> |
| Total                      | ... | ... | ... | 264   |

## VI.—HOUSING CONDITIONS.

1 Total number of houses in the District ... 5882

2 Number of working-class houses included in above 4537

3 General observations as to Housing conditions, overcrowding, and shortage of houses.

A considerable number of the houses which were shown to be overcrowded at the date of the Council's Survey have now become uncrowded and so do not need the Council's attention.

There is still a shortage of fit houses for the working classes in the district.

4 The greater portion of the houses erected by private enterprise have been erected on the Lido and Huddersfield Road, Springhead, Estate.

The remainder are spread fairly evenly throughout the district.

5 Housing Schemes projected by the Local Authority.

The Council have considered and completed Housing Schemes in pursuance of Slum Clearance Re-housing as under :—

(a) Cooper Street, Springhead, 36 houses (20 houses in 1937)—a total of 56 houses.

(b) Carr Cote, Delph, 81 houses contemplated. 49 houses in 1937. 32 houses in 1938.

(c) Sunfield, Diggle, 32 houses contemplated. 10 houses in 1937. 22 houses in 1938.

(d) Denshaw, 32 houses contemplated. 32 houses completed in 1938.

(e) 60 houses were built at Uppermill.

(f) 20 houses were built at Greenfield.

(g) 20 houses at Dobcross are in course of construction.

The Council is a member of the Oldham and Regional Town Planning Committee.

## VII.—HOUSING ACT, 1936, PART IV, OVER-CROWDING.

|       |  |     |
|-------|--|-----|
| (a) 1 | Number of dwellings over-crowded at the end of the year ... ..       | 19  |
| 2     | Number of families dwelling therein ... ..                           | 19  |
| 3     | Number of persons dwelling therein ... ..                            | 126 |
| (b)   | Number of new cases of over-crowding reported during the year ... .. | 3   |
| (c) 1 | Number of cases of over-crowding relieved during the year ... ..     | 0   |
| 2     | Number of persons concerned in such cases ... ..                     | 0   |

## ACTIVITY IN BUILDING NEW HOUSES FOR THE WORKING CLASSES IN THE DISTRICT.

For the information of the Council I give the number of new houses built in the undermentioned years :—

1925—65; 1926—78; 1927—54; 1928—40; 1929—71;  
 1930—33; 1931—8; 1932—41; 1933—57; 1934—67;  
 1935—88; 1936—133; 1937—159; 1938—264;

## FITNESS OF HOUSES.

The Ministry of Health have indicated in their Manual on Unfit Houses a standard of house the conditions of which are regarded as the minimum requirements for a fit house.

Thus a fit house should be :

- (1) free from serious dampness
- (2) satisfactorily lighted and ventilated
- (3) properly drained, and provided with adequate sanitary conveniences, also with sink and arrangements for slop water
- (4) in good general repair

It should also have

- (5) a satisfactory water supply
- (6) adequate washing accommodation
- (7) adequate facilities for preparing and cooking food, and
- (8) a well-ventilated store-room for food.

In considering the fitness of a house for human habitation your Housing Inspector and myself try to take these points into consideration to the best of our ability, and should we decide that the houses (2 or more) are unfit, we merely refer them later to the opinion of the Ministry of Health Inspector, who holds an impartial enquiry, when the owner is able to state what he can do with the houses to bring them up to standard.



**Section E.****INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.****MILK SUPPLY.**

Saddleworth is naturally self-supporting as regards this valuable food. It also sends large supplies to the neighbouring towns.

In spite of milk being such a valuable food, it is also one that has to be carefully watched. Cows are unfortunately liable to Tuberculosis and the milk of such infected animals is capable of giving the disease to children. Also milk has been sometimes the means of causing certain epidemics, the principal of which are Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria, Typhoid, Undulant Fever and Epidemic Sore Throat. Your district has been carefully watched, and in spite of the potential dangers of milk, there has been absolutely no case of disease that has been traced to milk.

I understand that of every four months, about 14 full days are spent in examining the dairies, cowsheds and cattle by the Assistant County Veterinary Inspector and the Sanitary Inspector.

There are 1,500 milk cows in district, 130 cow-keepers

In the year 339 cowshed inspections were made

Under the Milk (Special Designations) Orders, 1936, there were 9 licenses in force for the production of "Accredited" milk.

The milk was bacteriologically examined 10 times and as a result 10 cows were destroyed.

There is no production of Certified milk (Tuberculin tested animals.) At most of the Schools Pasteurised Milk is given free to the children, but this Milk is Pasteurised outside the district.

**SLAUGHTER-HOUSES.**

There are 18 slaughter-houses, of which 5 are registered and 13 licensed. These are frequently inspected. There is no public abattoir in the district.

About 45 cattle (excluding cows), 10 calves, 200 sheep and lambs, and 20 pigs are killed weekly.



#### BAKEHOUSES.

73 inspections have been made at the 27 Bakehouses situated within the district. None of these are situated underground, and the general condition has proved satisfactory.

#### MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

As the results of inspections by the Sanitary Inspector, 31 cwt. of meat and offal, and 42 cwt. of fish, fruit and vegetables were found unfit for human consumption.

## Section F.

## INFECTIOUS DISEASE

## Incidence and Control.

The following table gives information of the Notifiable Diseases occurring in Saddleworth during 1938 :—

| Notifiable Disease                           | Total Cases Notified | Cases Admitted to Hospital | Total Deaths |
|--|----------------------|----------------------------|--------------|
| Smallpox ...                                 | 0                    | 0                          | 0            |
| Scarlet Fever ...                            | 20                   | 7                          | 0            |
| Diphtheria ...                               | 7                    | 3                          | 0            |
| Enteric Fever ...                            | 1                    | 1                          | 0            |
| Acute Pneumonia                              |                      |                            |              |
| Primary or Influenzal                        | 10                   | 0                          | 7            |
| Puerperal Pyrexia ...                        | 4                    | 0                          | 0            |
| Cerebro-Spinal Fever                         | 0                    | 0                          | 1            |
| Acute Poliomyelitis ...                      | 0                    | 0                          | 0            |
| Acute Encephalitis                           |                      |                            |              |
| Lethargica ...                               | 0                    | 0                          | 0            |
| Ophthalmia Neonatorum                        | 2                    | 1                          | 0            |
| Erysipelas ...                               | 4                    | 0                          | 0            |
| Pulmonary Tuberculosis                       |                      |                            |              |
| (New Cases only) ...                         | 14                   | 0                          | 0            |
| Other Forms of Tuberculosis (New Cases only) | 3                    | 0                          | 0            |

Chicken-pox, Measles and Whooping Cough are not compulsorily notifiable in your district, and thus there is no method of ascertaining the incidence of these diseases. In my opinion Measles ought to be made compulsorily notifiable.

## DIPHTHERIA.

Saddleworth parents have fully appreciated the County Council's provision of free Protective Inoculation against Diphtheria. This offer was very largely taken advantage of in 1935, when the Scheme started, but in 1936 and 1937 there were naturally not the same number of cases that required this preventive treatment.

Number of children receiving the Preventive Treatment at their School :—

|                            |     |     | 1935                            | 1936 | 1937 | 1938 |
|----------------------------|-----|-----|---------------------------------|------|------|------|
| Dobcross School            | ... | ... | 75                              | 9    | 14   | 8    |
| Diggle School              | ... | ... | 120                             | 24   | 10   | 10   |
| Uppermill Parochial School | ... | ... | 66                              | 0    | 13   | 13   |
| Uppermill Council School   | ... | ... | 120                             | 19   | 16   | 7    |
| Greenfield School          | ... | ... | 100                             | 26   | 22   | 14   |
| Delph Wesleyan School      | ... | ... | 0                               | 24   | 0    | 0    |
| Denshaw School             | ... | ..  | 0                               | 21   | 17   | 9    |
| Delph Council School...    |     |     |                                 |      | 26   | 9    |
| Friarmere Infants School   |     |     | Information<br>not<br>Available |      | 7    | 10   |
| St. Mary's Church School   |     |     |                                 |      |      |      |
| Greenfield                 | ... |     |                                 |      | 15   | 8    |
| Friezland School           | ... | ... |                                 |      |      | 13   |
| Doctor Lane School         | ... | ... |                                 |      |      | 13   |
| Springhead Schools         | ... | ... |                                 |      |      | 36   |
| Total                      | ... |     | 481                             | 123  | 140  | 150  |

It will of course be noticed that these figures refer only to School children, and that free Protective Inoculation is being also provided by the County Council at the hands of General Practitioners.

It is interesting to note that in 1937, 15 cases of Diphtheria were notified, and in 1938 only 7 cases.

At the present moment, 1939, this preventative treatment is again being carried out at all your Schools. Also it is being performed (from the age of one year) at the Welfare Centre, Uppermill, in order to protect children of pre-school age, when probably the disease is most dangerous.

It is interesting to note that no Diphtheria has occurred in any of the children so treated.

There is little doubt that this mass immunisation should be continued yearly, and that we should aim to get the entire child population so protected.

It is also very important to inoculate children of pre-school age, from two years onward.

It may be of interest to the Council and the general public to have some idea of this Protective Inoculation.

It must be sharply distinguished from the anti-diphtheria serum (or anti-toxin) given in the actual treatment of Diphtheria and in contact cases, which only confers an immunity lasting for about a fortnight.

In the procedure of protective inoculation the child is given, by injection into the muscle, a dose of the Diphtheria poison combined with its antidote. This is done three times altogether, at either week or fortnightly intervals. As time goes on, the child slowly develops an immunity to the disease which may last for years and sometimes throughout life, in any case lasting throughout the time when the child is most susceptible.

#### INCIDENCE OF DIPHTHERIA.

Old Saddleworth :—

1932 and 1933— 9 cases notified.

1934 and 1935—49 cases notified.

1936—11 cases notified.

New Saddleworth—

1937—15 cases notified.

1938— 3 cases notified.

The Council has just authorised the free provision of Diphtheria Anti-toxin for the use of Saddleworth residents on the approval of the Medical Officer of Health. Supplies are available at the Council Offices, Springhead & Uppermill.

#### TUBERCULOSIS.

There is a Clinic for the diagnosis and treatment of this disease, which meets on the first and third Thursdays of the month at the Court Street Dispensary, Uppermill.

This work is amplified by X Ray investigation at Sowerby Bridge, and also at Oldham Infirmary.

Laboratory diagnosis of Phthisis and other Tubercular diseases, and the examination of milk is undertaken at the County Council Laboratories at Wakefield.

At the end of the year there were on Register (Tuberculosis) :—

57 male and 40 female cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

26 male and 33 female cases of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

During the year 17 new cases were notified, of which 4 males and 4 females were Pulmonary, and 4 males and 5 females Non-Pulmonary.

There were 15 deaths from the Pulmonary cases and 4 deaths from other Tubercular diseases.

In conclusion, I append the Report of the Sanitary Inspector, to whom and to the Housing Inspector I wish to express my thanks for their assistance during the year.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

ERNEST A. RAMSDEN.

ANNUAL REPORT OF  
THE SANITARY INSPECTOR  
FOR YEAR ENDING 1938.

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*To the Chairman and Members of the Urban District Council  
of Saddleworth.*

GENTLEMEN,

During the course of inspection, throughout the past year, of various premises within the district, many nuisances have been discovered, dealt with, and abated, in accordance with the Public Health Acts and Bye-Laws.

In reviewing the work undertaken, it would seem that the past year has been actively spent in abolishing insanitary conditions, and initiating measures to contribute to the health and general welfare of the district.

The Report does not show all the work that a Sanitary Inspector is called upon to carry out, for much time is expended interviewing owners of property and discussing with them suggested sanitary amendments, in lieu of serving notices to enforce the work being done. By this method a large number of nuisances are abated, with less tendency to friction arising from the parties concerned.

The number of informal notices served during the year, in respect to nuisances and defective sanitary arrangements, is 426. Many of the preliminary notices were complied with within a reasonable time after service of notice, but in 24 cases it was found necessary to serve legal notices for the abatement thereof.

The amount of refuse could be considerably lessened if householders would burn in their own grates the waste paper and vegetable and other matter, as this almost invariably finds its way into the receptacle, with the result that it rapidly becomes objectionable, thereby becoming a factor in causing infectious and other diseases.

PARTICULARS of Work done in compliance with Notices  
which have received attention.

|  | Notified<br>1938 | Abated<br>1938 | Unabated<br>1938 |
|--|------------------|----------------|------------------|
| Accumulation of Ashes, and filthy matter<br>lying exposed .....  | 20               | 20             | 0                |
| Defective Ashpits .....  | 32               | 30             | 2                |
| No. of Ashbins ordered .....   | 86               | 80             | 6                |
| Defective Drainage .....   | 35               | 33             | 2                |
| Water Closets repaired and cleansed ...  | 46               | 41             | 5                |
| No. of Water Closets ordered to be<br>erected .....  | 86               | 84             | 2                |
| No. of Earth Closets converted to<br>Pail Closets .....  | 1                | 1              | 0                |
| No. of Pails converted to Fresh<br>water carriage .....  | 34               | 34             | 0                |
| Defective Sanitary Pails.....  | 50               | 46             | 4                |
| Structural Defects, i.e., closets, doors,<br>ashpits, doors, fall pipes, gutters,<br>and spouting, internal walls and<br>ceilings, etc. .... | 266              | 260            | 6                |
| Insufficient Water Supply .....  | 30               | 30             | 0                |
| Pollution of Drinking Water.....   | 1                | 1              | 0                |
| Filthy matter lying about on Farms ...   | 18               | 18             | 0                |
| Yards cleansed.....  | 34               | 34             | 0                |
| Factories & Workshops .....  | 12               | 12             | 0                |
|  | 751              | 724            | 27               |

STATEMENT AS TO HOUSES IN THE DISTRICT AND THEIR  
SANITARY ACCOMMODATION.

|   |     |     |     |     |     |      |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|
| No. of Houses                             | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 5882 |
| Factories, Workshops, Lock-up Shops, etc. | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 186  |
| Pail Closets                              | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 657  |
| Water Closets                             | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4470 |
| Waste Water Closets                       | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 623  |
| Earth Closets                             | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 87   |
| Ashpits (covered and open)                | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 200  |
| Ashbins                                   | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4094 |



- 84 New Water Closets were erected to old property.  
 118 Water Closets were provided to new property.  
 34 Pail Closets were converted to water carriage.  
 1 Earth Closet was converted to the Pail system.

Where sewers and water supply are available the whole of the Pail Closets have been converted into Clean Water Closets.

#### BATHING POOL.

There is a privately owned Bathing Pool in the district which is open to the public. The Pool is about 75 yards in length and 20 yards wide, and suitable dressing and lavatory accommodation are provided. The water is obtained from an adjoining stream and is filtered and chlorinated.

During the past year 2 samples of water were taken for Bacteriological Examination, in order to ascertain if a proper standard of cleanliness and purity was being maintained. The samples were satisfactory.

#### FACTORIES AND WORKPLACES.

The following Premises come under this designation :

|                                   |     |     |     |     |
|-----------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Bakehouses                        | ... | ... | ... | 27  |
| Boot, Shoe and Clog Repairers     | ... | ... | ... | 21  |
| Cotton Spinning and Weaving Mills | ... | ... | ... | 49  |
| Joiners and Builders              | ... | ... | ... | 23  |
| Laundries                         | ... | ... | ... | 2   |
| Motor Repairs—Garages             | ... | ... | ... | 8   |
| Printers                          | ... | ... | ... | 3   |
| Wheelwrights and Shoeing Forge    | ... | ... | ... | 6   |
| Milliners and Dressmakers         | ... | ... | ... | 9   |
| Saddlers                          | ... | ... | ... | 1   |
| Tailoring, Ladies and Gents...    | ... | ... | ... | 1   |
| Watchmakers and Jewellers         | ... | ... | ... | 1   |
| Tinsmiths                         | ... | ... | ... | 3   |
| Plumbers                          | ... | ... | ... | 6   |
| Umbrella Repairers                | ... | ... | ... | 2   |
| Welding and Brass Founders        | ... | ... | ... | 3   |
| Electricians                      | ... | ... | ... | 6   |
| Ironfounders                      | ... | ... | ... | 2   |
| Dentist                           | ... | ... | ... | 1   |
| Cycle Stores                      | ... | ... | ... | 2   |
| Total                             |     |     |     | 176 |
| Licences to keep Petroleum Spirit | ... | ... | ... | 36  |
| Do. Carbide of Calcium            | ... | ... | ... | 2   |

SUMMARY OF HOUSING CONDITIONS, YEAR ENDED  
DECEMBER 31ST, 1938.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

|   |     |     |     |     |     |              |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|--------------|
| Area  | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 18,485 Acres |
| Population  | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 17240        |
| Number of Inhabited Houses, 1st April, 1938           | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 5882         |
| Rateable Value 1st April, 1938                        | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | £96,642      |
| Sum represented by a penny rate at 1st April, 1938... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | £363         |

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS.

The following are registered under the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926, Milk and Dairies (Amendment) Act, 1922 :

|   |     |     |     |      |
|---|-----|-----|-----|------|
| No. of Wholesale Traders                              | ... | ... | ... | 12   |
| No. of Registered Dairies                             | ... | ... | ... | 15   |
| No. of Cowkeepers                                     | ... | ... | ... | 130  |
| No. of Registered Cowkeepers<br>and Purveyors of Milk | ... | ... | ... | 113  |
| No. of Accredited Milk Farms                          | ... | ... | ... | 9    |
| Approximate No. of Milk Cows                          | ... | ... | ... | 1500 |

During the year 339 visits were made along with the County Veterinary Surgeon to Dairies and Cowsheds within the district. The notices served upon the responsible persons for the removal of filthy matter lying about were 28, and 118 notices were served with reference to limewashing.

All cows were examined each quarter, 10 samples taken for bacteriological examination, and 10 cows were destroyed under the provision of the Tuberculosis Order.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

There are 18 private Slaughter Houses in the District. The premises are visited at regular intervals, but always, if possible, when slaughtering is taking place. The Slaughter Houses and lairs are kept in a fairly satisfactory condition.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

All premises used for Tripe-boiling have been inspected several times during the year, and lime-washing has been regularly carried out in them.

FOOD INSPECTION.

Considerable time has been spent in food inspection. 31 cwt. of beef and offal and 42 cwt. of fish, fruit and vegetables were destroyed as unfit for human consumption and buried on the Council's tip.

## SAMPLES OF WATER TAKEN FROM PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SOURCES.

32 samples of spring and well water were taken for analytical purposes, 13 of which proved to be suspect. These supplies have now been rendered fit and wholesome.

## SMOKE OBSERVATIONS.

The observations of smoke emitted from mill chimneys were 45 in number, and the number of cases where the limit of four minutes allowed for black smoke per half hour was exceeded was 3 times.

## DIPHThERIA ANTI-TOXIN.

A supply of Diphtheria Anti-toxin is kept in stock at Dr. Ramsden's, M.O.H., Dobcross, Council Offices, Upper-mill, Stoneleigh, Springhead; and supplied free of charge for use by Local Practitioners.

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Particulars of work done in connection with Infectious Diseases investigated and reported upon during the year: Smallpox, 0; Chicken Pox, 0; Diphtheria, 7; Erysipelas, 4; Scarlet Fever, 20; Puerperal Sepsis, 0; Puerperal Pyrexia, 4; Ophthalmia Neonatorum, 2; Pulmonary Tuberculosis, 14; Other Tuberculous Diseases, 3; Measles, 0; Mumps, 0; Whooping Cough, 0; Pneumonia, 10; Enteric Fever, 1.

Disinfection:—Izal, Formalin, and Jeye's Fluid were freely supplied.

|  |    |
|--|----|
| Visits made to Infected Houses .....   | 62 |
| Houses fumigated after Notifiable Diseases ...   | 66 |
| Do.                      do.                      Other                      do.                      .. | 36 |
| Schools and Public Buildings fumigated .....   | 31 |

## CASES REMOVED TO ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Fever Cases (Westhulme, Oldham) .....    | 6 |
| do. do. (Ashton) .....                   | 0 |
| do. do. (Meltham) .....                  | 3 |
| do. do. (Hyde) .....                     | 2 |
| Small Pox (Runninghill, Dobcross) ... .. | 0 |
| Monsall Hospital (Manchester) .....      | 1 |

One difficulty met with is the time taken up in getting to the farms discussing matters with the farmer—a point, the importance of which cannot be over estimated, and of great educational value—and an examination of buildings and methods of milk production. It can easily be seen that the number of cows any one inspector can examine in a day depends greatly on the numbers kept on each farm, the proximity of the farms to each other and so on.

The value of the work cannot be judged by the number of actually diseased animals dealt with, although this perhaps may at first sight be considered the primary object, but even more by the moral effect it has in improving the general quality of the cattle, for where once farmers realize that an inspector may drop in at any time, those amongst them who may be willing to buy a “doubtful” cheap cow, become much more careful in their choice.

During the nine years this work has been in existence great improvements have taken place in the conditions under which milk is produced in this district, and even where buildings are still unsatisfactory the general state of cleanliness has vastly improved.

On several farms one can go round at any time of the year and rarely see a dirty cow or dirty cowshed, but in others progress has been less marked.

I think one is right in saying that where most improvements have been carried out the farmers appear to be more cheerful and prosperous than in the more retrograde parts where least has been done.

#### CONCLUSION.

I desire to acknowledge the courtesy and consideration extended to me by the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee. To the Clerk and Medical Officer of Health, for the assistance rendered in the discharge of my duties, I also tender my thanks.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

LEONARD TAYLOR, M.R.SAN.I., F.R.H.S.  
*Sanitary Inspector.*





